

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 EB-07 CIAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3135

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS LUANDA 1112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT TP

SUBJECT: TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMES POWER IN SAO TOME

1. THE LUANDA PRESS REPORTED THE PASSAGE THROUGH ANGOLA ON DECEMBER 19 OF THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, LT COLONEL PIRES VELOSO, WHO WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ON DECEMBER 21. VELOSO TOLD REPORTERS HE THOUGHT THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS ON THE ISLANDS WOULD BE EASIER THAN IN OTHER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. HE SAID HE IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH SOME OF THE LEADERS OF THE MLSTP AND BELIEVES THEY ARE VERY CAPABLE PEOPLE. VELOSO ADDED THAT THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS FACING THE ISLANDS ARE ECONOMIC AND STEM FROM DEPENDENCE ON COCOA. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PORTUGUAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

2. THE LUANDA PRESS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS ALSO REPORTED THE NAMES OF THE MLSTP MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT: LEONEL ALVA, AN ECONOMIST AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTY, WHO WILL BE PRIME MINISTER; SRA ALDA ESPIRITO SANTO, AGE 47, TEACHER; GASTAO TORRES, AGE 45, LAWYER; DR CARLOS DE GRACE, UNCLASSIFIED

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AGE 42, PHYSICIAN; AND PEDRO UMBELINE AGE 28, UNTIL NOW A

STUDENT IN SWEDEN. WE ARE ACQUAINTED ONLY WITH SRA ESPIRITO SANTO. SHE WAS THE HEAD OF THE PRO-MLSTP CIVIC ASSOCIATION ON SAO TOME. SHE IS A QUIET, MATRONLY LADY WITH SOME LOCAL REPUTATION AS A POET.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS HERE, THE REST OF THE MLSTP LEADERSHIP, WHICH IS NOW IN LIBREVILLE, WILL RETURN TO SAO TOME WITH THE ADVENT OF INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 12, 1975.
KILLORAN

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